



When Old "POP" TIME Slips the Blue Envelope to the Demon Athlete



ED WALSH.

How the Veterans in the BIG SHOW Receive the News That They Are Booked for the Discard--Trying to Come-Back and Its Victories and Tragedies

BY BILLY MURPHY.

Possibly it is out of mere veneration to their years, but the lay observer is struck by the fact that all selections of star baseball teams made by experts, ball players, umpires or mere fans this fall include the names of those doddering old gentlemen, Christopher Mathewson, Honus Wagner and Edward Plank.

It is a fine tribute to the so-called veterans that they are still ranked among the leaders of their kind in an era when new phenoms are almost of daily occurrence.

Still another comparative veteran whose name appears in All-Selections is Napoleon Rucker, the Brooklyn Express, greatest of all the left-handers (with apologies to those who think the title should go to Eddie Plank).

True, Rube Marquard is a wonderful southpaw. So are Vean Gregg and "Lefty" Hamilton and George Tyler, but they have yet to stand the test of time, and Napoleon Rucker has stood it.

Sooner or later old Pop Time slips everybody the blue envelope. For years it appeared as if Denton Tecumseh Young would get it, but he didn't, for quite a series of seasons.

Cy always was one of the greatest pitchers in the game, and he never was in condition. He was from 15 to 20 pounds overweight every year.

And to this very fact that he carried so much extra poundage is probably due to his long career in the big arena.

Players who must take off weight undergo the hardest work of the season in the spring. They strain and rack their nervous and muscular systems. Few players who have more than 10 pounds to take off each spring last six or eight years.

Old Cy's extra pounds gave him extra tissue and strength. He had something to draw on. Cy always kept his weight a secret. What's the use of bothering about weight when you can pitch good ball?

How great men miss the blue envelope or receive it and later "come back" is one of the most interesting studies of the great national game.

Every season a great number of players are shipped to the minors. Some are men who have been bought and drafted and some have been in the "big show" for some time, but have outlived their usefulness.

Of course, these players, bought or drafted, are as a rule young men and they are shipped to the minors in view of having them as an asset to be used when ripe.

The players that have been in the big league for a time, however, and then are shipped to the minors are the ones to which special reference is made.

INDIFFERENT PLAYERS NEVER SUCCEED.

After serving a while in the big league, these players become careless in their work. They do not go back sufficient to keep them out, but they take it for granted that they are there to stay and therefore become indifferent to their work.

Before they realize what has happened, they are back in the minors.

The fact that they are back should not be looked upon by them as proof that they are "going," but should be taken as a much needed medicine when taken judiciously, gets results. When these "go-back" players get into the minor leagues, they generally make the mistake of their lives, for immediately they begin to play minor league ball, instead of putting their shoulder to the wheel and striving to become a "come-back."

Baseball is a game for the am-

bitious man. It always has been and always will be. The players that go about their work with indifference, never succeed.

When you see a player run half way to first and walk the rest of the way on an infield hit or when he hits a fly, jogs to the bag, set it down, he will never make a star.

Fred Falkenberg of the Cleveland Naps proved last season what a man can accomplish in the game of "come-back."

The big "Slat" had been shot to the minors without ceremony—but put it down that considerable ceremony attended his games last season in the American League—and most of the ceremonies were the



BOBBY WALLACE.

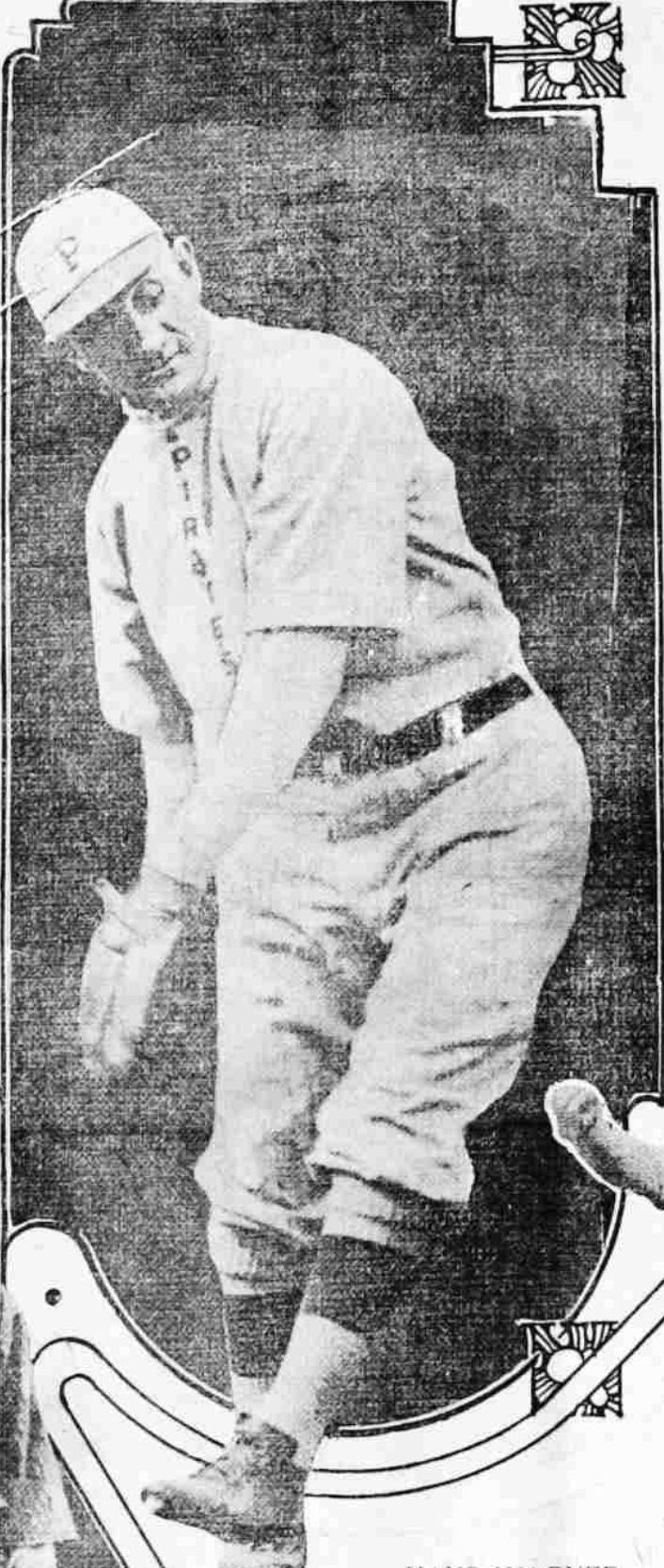
last rites for the clubs that opposed the once "has-been."

But not all who try prove successful "come-backs."

Slowly but surely the stars of yesterday are passing from the "big show," their places to be filled by ambitious youngsters who are coming up each season for trial.

Last season saw three fade from the glare of the majors, yet their passing caused little comment. Jeff Overall, who tried to "come-back" after laying off two seasons, was let out by Manager Evers of the Cubs.

A few days later his teammate,



HANS WAGNER.

show Evers that he was still able to travel some.

Johnny took him at his word, because he felt that the Cub twirling staff wasn't the strongest in the league by any means and gave the big Westerner an opportunity to make good on his own dope.

OVERALL SURPRISED JUST AS FIGHTERS ARE.

Overall was fooled, just as fighters are, in believing that they can come back.

Richie's release was no huge surprise, for outside of beating the Giants now and then, Lew was of little use to Evers.

"Lefty" Leifeld was the third member of the great Cub trio to be sent back to the minors.

Leifeld was a wonderful southpaw, but is perfectly contented with his San Francisco berth.

Clark Griffith, the great manager of the Washington Nationals, is a pitcher who fooled old Pop Time, after he had slipped Clark the blue envelope.

Griff had taken advantage of the baseball war in 1911 to join the St. Louis Browns.

In August he was traded to the Boston club of the American Association, but later was dropped on account of a sore arm.

Griffith then signed with Tacoma in 1912, but the club punctured its bank roll in August and he finished the season with the Missoula, Mont., club, because his family moved there and he wanted to be near the commissary department in the event of untoward happenings.

His arm had regained its strength and the following year he was thought good enough for the Oakland, Cal., club.

and part owner of the Chicago Nationals.

Griffith jumped into national prominence in 1914, when he and Bill Hutchinson practically alternated on the slab for an extended period, while the rest of the hurling staff was crippled.

While with the Chicago Nationals Griffith ranked with the leading hurlers of the league and it was considered a great haul for the American League when he and Calahan flopped to Comiskey's White Sox at the beginning of the second baseball war in 1911.

Griff piloted the White Sox to the league pennant that season, led the league pitchers with 24 games won, 7 lost, and batted over 300.

He also acted as manager in 1912, but became manager of the New York Highlanders when the American League invaded New York in 1913.

A wild pitch by Jack Chesbro lost the pennant of 1914 to Boston in the final game of the season.

In 1917 Griff quit active duty on the mound and in 1918, following trouble with the club officials and internal dissension in the club, he resigned as manager in New York and was succeeded by "Kid" Elberfeld.

SPENDS WINTERS ON 10,000-ACRE FARM.

Griff cast his lot with Cincinnati in 1919 and served as manager for three years. He refused a renewal of his contract when offered a chance to buy a block of stock in the Washington club.

When freed from baseball cares in winter, Griffith spends most of his time at a 10,000-acre ranch near Craig, Mont., which he owns jointly with his brother. The ranch is suitable for grazing and is stocked with horses and cattle.

He is not ready for the blue en-

velope.

Hans Wagner is probably the greatest of 'em all, at fooling old Pop Time.

He began in 1897 and in that most important of departments of the game—hitting—has never batted under .300.

He still is considered the only player fit to be compared in all-around excellence, with Ty Cobb.

He is faster today than Honus, and he is younger.

But Mr. Ty Cobb of Detroit will have to travel a long distance before he will outdo the world of Pittsburgh's great shortstop, when the record of years is taken into consideration.

Honus Wagner joined the Louisville club in 1897 and he has played regularly in the National League ever since.

In the sixteen years he has been on the turf, he never hit under .300 and during that time he has led the National League batters eight times.

That is surely going some, and the old hero of Smokeville is still keeping up his lick. Since Wagner has been in the National League, there have been other sluggers who have beaten him out of the batting honors, but they did not last.

They were Ed Delahanty, Clarence Beaumont, Jess Burkett, Billy Keeler, Cy Seymour and Sherwood Magee and the only one of these who has lasted is Magee.

Ed Delahanty is dead and gone and the rest are scattered and long ago dropped out of the Big Show.

EDUCATE HUMANITY, HER PLEA

False education, man's lack of knowledge of his own heritage, and forces that are resultant from the present day confusion, make the marriage of today pathetic and the birth of a child a tragedy in the opinion of Mrs. Katherine Tingley, official head of the Universal Brotherhood and Theosophical society.

Known far and wide by theosophists as "The Purple Mother," Mrs. Tingley has a vast influence. She is founder-director of the Raja Yoga College of Point Loma, Cal.

"To me the thought of a child coming into this world today, is one of the most pathetic tragedies," she declared. "This may seem far-fetched to you; but, when I think of the young souls born into the atmosphere of human life as it is, I declare it is pathetic."

"I believe that every mother should be removed from the pressure of everyday external conditions which we know nearly always surround the coming of a new life, away from the fevered unrest of the world, closer to nature, where that spiritual preparation could be made that would enable her to find the key to her possibilities as a mother and to learn to think and feel and love in a new way, in a broader, a deeper way. In order that she might better protect and guide the new life."

proven by Plank in the recent world's series games.

The veteran had cracked in the tenth inning of the second game and lost out in a pitching duel to Mathewson, 2 to 0.

The defeat was really not his fault. Had the Athletics made any runs behind him, the game would have been over in the ninth, but they didn't, and he was beaten.

Later, according to press dispatches, it developed that it was to have been Plank's last game. He intended to retire for all time after that battle.

As he was beaten in the wind-up frame, he asked Connie Mack for one more chance.

Plank's opportunity came in the final game, when the Giants were making their last stand.

What Plank accomplished that day everybody knows.

He won the baseball's highest honors for his team by beating the New Yorkers 2 to 1, pitching one of the most superb games of his career. He held the opposing sluggers to two singles and not a man reached first base off him until he walked Shafer in the fifth inning. Plank had retired fourteen batters in a row before this pass came.

Then the dispatch came flitting over the wires that this game was the last that Plank would ever pitch. He intended to retire and spend his remaining days in seclusion at his home, Gettysburg, Pa.

Plank first figured that it would be best to retire at the moment of his greatest glory and be remembered in days to come as a wonderful pitcher, rather than wait until the day when he would be huffed around in the bush leagues.

His departure to the minors would sooner or later be inevitable and he deemed it far better to quit as a world's series hero, rather than as a broken down old "has-been."

But since making that statement Plank has reconsidered and come out with another, saying that he has changed his mind and would join the team for training next spring.

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"Not until woman has knowledge—a better understanding of her own nature and power to serve, can the children have their best opportunities."

"What assurance have we that young souls touching this plane of life shall have their opportunities? The mother-heart, we know, holds love and devotion and the spirit of self-sacrifice for her own; and it is also to be found in the father's heart; but alas! as soon as a soul enters the arena of life, it is not the real possession of its mother and father; for they have not yet gained that divine knowledge necessary to give it its best opportunities; and so, in the course of time, it drifts into the great ocean of unrest and suffering; the conditions of the age hold it."

"False education, man's lack of knowledge of his own heritage and possibilities, and those forces that are the result of the present-day mental confusion, hold and fetter the young soul and shut out its best opportunities."

"If we are to serve humanity rightly, to really do some things to lift its burden, we must begin our preparatory and remedial work in the home. In this thought is there

not something new for parents to think about?"

"To properly approach the conditions referred to, one must take a new view of marriage. Though the subject has been seriously studied all down the ages, yet rarely do we hear of a marriage that carries with it in after years that sacred touch which should be there. And so, in viewing present-day marriages, one finds (if one thinks at all about this subject) that it is the lack of knowledge, of the laws governing human life which brings about so many failures and real tragedies in the home."

"True it is, the parents of the present day have their grand ideals, their hopes and their dreams and their prayers; but they have not the key to the situation. How can two souls on this plane expect to go through life doing their fullest duty to the sacred obligations of marriage when they are unacquainted with the divine laws that should fashion their whole natures?"

"Humanity needs to be awakened to its dangers—yes, and awakened to the knowledge of the science of life. The science of life and theosophy."

"Let us clear the way for the coming generation. Let us, through the knowledge that we have gained of ourselves, cultivate that quality of understanding that shall purify and evolve soulful beings."

"Is my picture of the danger to the young far-fetched? Look at our youth on the streets! See the wrecks in society, in prison and everywhere, and tell me that those who have erred and fallen and lost their way had their opportunities! Oh, the pity of it! Wrecked homes! Divorces and suicides and all manner of crimes! And these are our progeny! The progeny of the twentieth century!"

"How can these things be changed? you ask. Why, through man's becoming acquainted with himself. To gain self-knowledge man must know his divinity; he must work in consonance with the nobler part of his nature continuously."

"The mission of theosophy is to inculcate that quality of knowledge that shall open the mind of man to the realities of life, so that he may learn, ere it is too late, the great doctrine of Karma: 'As ye sow, so must ye also reap.'"

"In place of faith let us have knowledge, in order that we may be able to face ourselves, our weaknesses, and challenge our higher natures and gain that control that will aid us in meeting understandingly the sorrows and disappointments and unbrotherliness of the age."

ORVAL OVERALL.

Griffith is a splendid example of a "come-back" of the first water. Eddie Plank is the greatest example of a "hold-out" when it comes to refusing to accept the blue envelope.

The hero of the recent world's championship series has every man in the big leagues shaded in the matter of age.

According to our records, the only ones who can compare with him and are present-day performers, are Hans Wagner, who is nearly the same age, and Christy Mathewson, who is five years younger.

Plank was born at Gettysburg, Pa., in 1874. His first baseball experience was limited to the town lot variety and later he attended Gettysburg College and played on the baseball team there.

Here he attracted the attention of Connie Mack and in 1901 he went to Philadelphia and has remained with the Athletics ever since.

Numerous stars have come and gone in his day.

During his early years on the Quaker City team, the great Rube Waddell, was the star of the Mack men, but the wonderful left-hander is in the discard, although not as old as the "Gettysburg Guide."

Just what an old man can do was